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WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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St. Louis, Mo.

BIG PROGRAM SET FOR SAFETY CONFERENCE

Safety leaders throughout the nation, including those working directly with REA-financed systems, will have a hand in the REA Safety and Job Training Instructors' Conference September 25 to 30 at the REA office, Boatmen's Bank Building, St. Louis, Missouri.

A training film made by instructor Ehmsen of Kentucky and Thomas F. Hankins, trainer-teacher in safety and industrial education at the University of Kentucky, will be one of the features of the conference. Dr. Aiken of Mississippi State College will also take part in the program, as will E. L. Williams of Texas A. and M. College. The latter will bring three instructors from the college.

Dr. Andrew Triche, head of Louisiana Department of Education, will give his observations of the conference.

Here are some of the other states which have expressed an interest in the conference:

Iowa - Instructor Ehlers has sent in some interesting topics for discussion. Two managers and a foreman plan to attend, too.

Michigan - Instructor Meyer will attend and offer suggestions.

Ohio - Instructor High will be accompanied by a lineman-member of the Ohio committee.

Virginia - Instructor Heath is coming in with a bale of problems. A member of his committee is coming also.

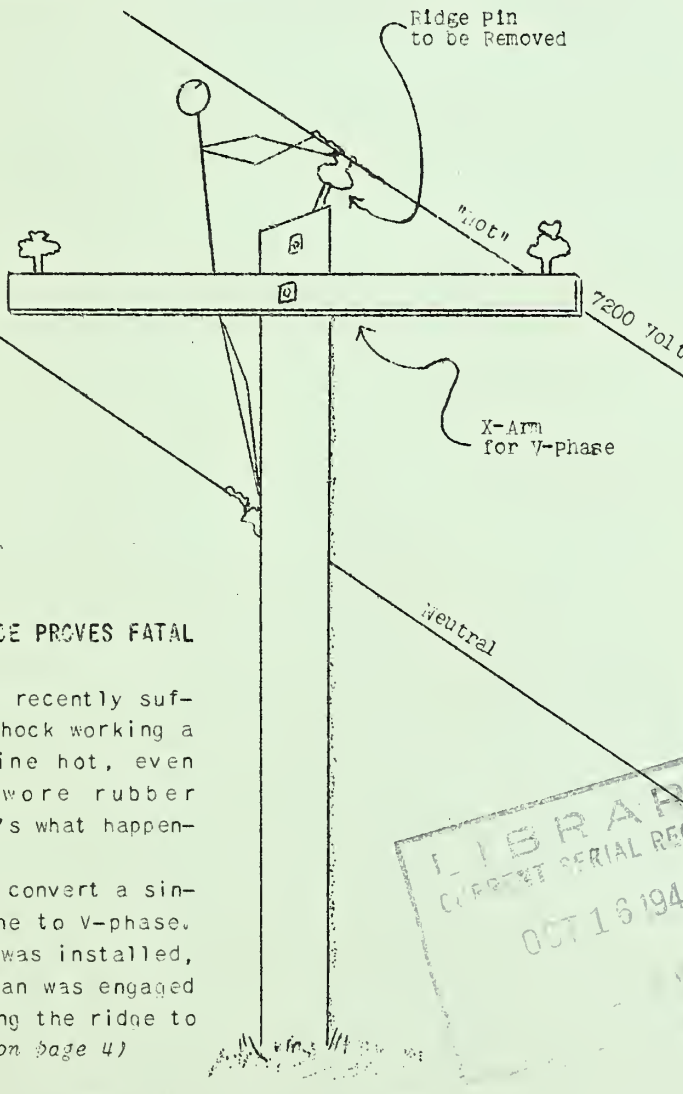
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BAD PRACTICE PROVES FATAL

A lineman recently suffered fatal shock working a 7200-volt line hot, even though he wore rubber gloves. Here's what happened:

He had to convert a single-phase line to V-phase. The crossarm was installed, and the lineman was engaged in transferring the ridge to

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David A. Fleming, Editor

HUMAN NATURE

It's human nature to become overconfident, lax and careless in one's work when one has done a job again and again. That's the theme which Instructor DeVaughan of the Alabama REA Safety Committee hits hard in his sessions with REA cooperative employees.

He urges his listeners to forget how many times a job has been done and stop to make a thorough analysis of it; to study the safety precautions that must be taken before the job is started and those that tie in with the work in progress.

Here are some other hints by Instructor DeVaughan which make good sense:

1. Don't hide new ideas and procedures under a bushel--pass them on for the benefit of fellow-employees.

2. Try to keep personal affairs in such condition that one's mind will be free from worry on the job. If one worries, becomes forgetful and makes a slip that costs one's limb or life, worries at home will increase.

3. Keep equipment in good condition and make repairs quickly. Form the habit of inspecting tools, equipment, lines and all things with which you come in contact on the job. Report to the proper responsible person those conditions which you cannot correct.

4. Remember that for each service connection, three or four persons are dependent upon you for service; keep the goal of the cooperative before you and keep yourself clean and neat.

"You can't take safety for granted," says Inspector DeVaughan, even tho it may be human nature to do so. His talks make it clear that safety is the business of everyone; that it has many angles and that we must explore each angle to make the job really safe.

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

1. Lineman putting transformer gin on pole. *He thought the line was dead.* Chain on gin came in contact with "hot" line. Flash burn on hand. No time lost.

2. Lineman opened cutout with stick. Removed gloves and moved up higher on the pole. He contacted jumper wire extending through cutout. "Third degree burns on left hand and left leg." Estimated 90 days time lost.

3. Member attempted to close cutout on transformer serving his house, unauthorized by co-op. Severe shock. Burns on left hand.

LINEMEN CAN TELL MEMBERS ABOUT SAFETY

What can linemen do to get across to members the dangers of trying to "do the job themselves?" C. H. Foster, manager of the Rock County REA in Wisconsin, in a letter to a member who tried just that, presents some strong arguments for a policy of "let the linemen do it." The letter follows:

"Dear Member:

"A few days ago your farm was inconvenienced by an interruption in electric service which we sincerely regret.

"However, we were informed that you had placed a ladder against the pole with the idea in mind to repair this outage yourself. Fortunately for you, this ladder was too short.

"While we respect your ambition to wish to restore service without asking for our assistance, we must call your attention to the fact that AT NO TIME FOR ANY REASON is anyone EXCEPT EXPERIENCED LINEMEN IN OUR EMPLOY, permitted to do this work. Whether or not you are experienced in electrical work, it is doubtful that you would have in your possession 20,000-volt tested rubber gloves nor 75,000-volt tested hot sticks, which is the equipment we use on this work.

"Now, you are aware that there is no time during the day or night that at least one of our maintenance men cannot be reached by phone. These phone numbers are before you, or should be, continually, because they are found on each monthly meter card and each monthly bulletin that you receive. So there is no reason for any member to take up the job of maintenance himself.

(Cont'd on next page)

VIRGINIA SUPERVISOR ADVISES CO-OP

In a recent letter to a Virginia co-op, O. L. Heath, REA Safety Supervisor for that state, listed unsafe equipment and practices, in answer to a request from the co-op. Below is the list that Mr. Heath compiled. He suggested that additional items might be brought out at a safety meeting which was to be held shortly after the letter was written. Have readers of "The Lineman" any suggestions?

ROPE

Manila rope comes from a fibre produced in the Philippine islands and is no longer obtainable. Some sisal fibre rope is still available, but it has a breaking strength of 80% of the manila rope, and has a short fibre which tends to fuzz up very readily. A great deal of the rope on the market today for civilian use is made of jute, having 50% of the breaking strength of manila, and istle produced in Mexico with 54% of the breaking strength of manila.

We should attempt to buy the sisal, and since it has only 80% of the breaking strength of manila, we should use a larger size than we would ordinarily use in manila rope.

LINEMEN CAN TELL MEMBERS ABOUT SAFETY

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"The line that serves you and every member-consumer carries 6,900 volts of electricity and is death dealing upon contact, which proves that the work of maintenance is only for experienced men.

"We advocate safety, we preach safety, we teach safety, and WE ENFORCE SAFETY RULES, and as a part owner of this cooperative it is your duty to help us carry out a program of safe operation.

"We trust you will cooperate in the future by calling us when your power is off, and I can assure you that we will make every effort to restore service to you as quickly as is humanly possible."

1. Discontinue use of 4½ foot hot sticks.
2. One 6' and one 8' hot stick and suitable container be provided on each truck.
3. Linemen will not use 6' sticks where common sense indicates an 8' stick is needed.
4. Linemen will discontinue the practice of carrying hot sticks up pole on belt, but will use hand line.
5. Suitable grounding cable be provided.
6. Ladders on both pick-up trucks need varnishing.
7. Pike pole contained on line truck needs repairs to prevent spikes sticking thru on back end. Suggest a steel plate be slipped inside of container.
8. More attention be given to good housekeeping on trucks and premises.



George Perkins, Jr., manager of the Prairie Power Cooperative, Fairfield, Idaho, drew up this little sketch for The Lineman. "Not many accidents occur from a lineman not using his safety belt...but it's a good thing to think about," he writes.

LINEMEN IN 2 STATES ORGANIZE SAFETY PROGRAM

Linemen from several Missouri and Arkansas REA-financed systems got a safety program under way and elected officers on August 16 at the offices of the Scott-New Madrid-Mississippi Cooperative Association, Sikeston, Missouri.

Herbert Carr of the Pemiscot-Dunklin Cooperative Association, Hayti, Missouri, was elected president, Wayne Tallo of the Mississippi County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated in Blytheville, Arkansas, was elected vice president, and Noah E. Cox from the Sikeston co-op was elected secretary-treasurer.

HOT OR COLD?

"May we respectfully call to your attention a statement in the July issue of 'The Lineman,' page 1, to the effect that: 'The creosoted pine pole must be considered a good ground and in some cases completes the circuit—hot wire through the hand and body to the ground by way of the pole.'

"We have been assured by Dr. George M. Hunt, Chief of the Wood Preservation Division, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin that wood preservatives, commonly used in treating poles, do not increase conductivity of the pole, the real factor being the moisture content of the wood. Many linemen claim that creosoted poles are 'hot' but research work by leading technicians do not substantiate this."

SAFETY UNIT COMMENT

We have climbed a few creosoted pine poles and we still think they are "hot." What is the opinion of linemen and safety instructors?

HOME AND FARM ACCIDENT PREVENTION

"Accident prevention instructor's Manual, Home & Farm and Farm Courses," and "On Guard Against Accidents instructor's Manual Junior Accident prevention Course," are obtainable from the American Red Cross, Washington, D. C. Cooperative people will find these booklets very helpful in safety work for their members and community as a whole. The junior manual is good for school work.

BAD PRACTICE PROVES FATAL

(Cont'd. from page 1)

pin phase to the end of the new arm. He was standing on the neutral wire when he contacted the phase. The burns were on the arm near the elbow and the feet.

This procedure was not in keeping with standard safety practices, even though the lineman was wearing gloves. Rubber gloves are not good for more than 3,000 volts to ground, even though they may be marked 10,000-volt or even 20,000-volt. REA standard voltage is approximately 12,500 between hot phases and approximately 7,200-volt hot phase to ground. This voltage cannot be handled safely with rubber gloves.

Why not de-energize and ground the line to do these jobs, rather than take this chance? The outage would be small and could probably be arranged at a time convenient to the members.

L. N. Elmore of REA's Safety Section spoke on the need and advantages of a well-organized and functioning safety program. Refreshments were served and the date for the next meeting set for September 15 at the Poplar Bluff headquarters of the Ozark Border Electric Cooperative.

Those present included Harry Sutton, Jim Millhorn and Mr. Tallo of Arkansas 23; Henry Harbison and George Rickan, Missouri 38; Junion Kursey, Ben Worsham, Homer Handle, Rex Rice, Glenn Eakers and Mr. Carr from Missouri 12; Frank Percy, Joe H. Cooper, Laverne H. Box, Jesse Simpson, Clarence Perry, H. M. Zaricor and Mr. Cox from Missouri 31; A. S. Lester, Herbert Wilcher, S. Hayes, Edgar Martin and H. H. Hodges, Arkansas 22; and Mr. Elmore.

BIG PROGRAM SET FOR SAFETY CONFERENCE

(Cont'd. from page 1)

Oklahoma - Instructor Billingsley will be on tap with some new problems. Mr. Powers of Oklahoma A, and M. says he will try to attend.

Wisconsin - Instructor Potthast will attend, and John Tepoorten, State Coordinator of Vocational and Adult Education, will be on the program.

Tennessee - Instructor Alexander plans to attend.

Loren B. Holden of the Bonneville Power Administration will attend and take an active part in the discussions. Ray Schlotterback, Director of First Aid, Water Safety and Accident Prevention Service of the American Red Cross mid-western region, will be on the program.